

support 52 could also be designed as an integral part of the frame that could be snapped off if not needed. Tubes are typically cut shorter if they extend beyond the latch. Because of this, the above mentioned coil is not always necessary and is an optional rather than required component.

Another plastic frame embodiment is shown in FIG. 14. The frame 56 includes support legs 58, 60, 62, each having fastener means 64 on end portions, such as VEL-CRO-type complementary fastener means in which the complementary fastener is attached to the patient's face.

The frame further includes band 66 passing over the nose/mouth region of the patient. A coiled wire 68 is coated with frictional plastic which is capable of gripping tube 11 for holding the position of the tube and also for preventing kinking. Once the tube 11 is in place, tape 14 is wrapped around the coil wire 68 along the longitudinal portion thereof so that the tube is held over a substantial length. A spike 71 prevents possible gradual migration of the tube due to repeated flexing of the coil. A moldable frictional plastic or other natural or synthetic material may be used without wire so long as the material is semirigid or bendable.

While the present invention has been described with reference to specific examples, drawings and embodiments, variations may be made without departing from the invention.

We claim:

1. An endotracheal tube stabilizer comprising:

a band-shaped frame, wherein the frame comprises an extension band for extension in front of the mouth region of the patient, wherein the band has opposite end portions adapted to be connectable to opposite side portions of the patient's face:

means for attaching the frame to a patient's face, wherein the means for attaching the frame comprises at least two stomahesive pads adapted to be adhesively connected to the patient's face, wherein opposite side portions of the frame are overlaid on an upper surface of the stomahesive pads, and tape overlies the stomahesive pads and the opposite side portions of the frame for holding the frame to these stomahesive pads;

a support having distal and proximal ends, wherein the proximal end of the support is connected to the frame and the support extends radially outward from the frame; and

means for securing an endotracheal tube to the support.

2. The stabilizer of claim 1 wherein the means for securing the endotracheal tube to the support comprises tape which is wrapped around the tube and the support.

3. The stabilizer of claim 1 wherein the opposite end portions comprise band extensions extending substantially perpendicularly to the band.

4. The stabilizer of claim 1 wherein the end portions comprise rounded ends.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support comprises a channel receiving the endotracheal tube.

6. An endotracheal tube stabilizer comprising, a band shaped frame,

means for positioning the frame close to a patient's face,

means for attaching the frame to a patient's face at points of attachment substantially far away from the patient's mouth and nose,

a support connected to the frame at an area of the mouth and nose of the patient, wherein the support extends radially outwardly from the frame, and

means for securing an endotracheal tube to the support wherein the support comprises a channel receiving the endotracheal tube wherein the means for securing the endotracheal tube comprises a transparent strap connected to one side of the channel, wherein the strap wraps around the endotracheal tube.

7. The stabilizer of claim 6 wherein the transparent strap is provided with a marker line, whereby the position of the tube is determined by alignment of the marker line with graduated markers.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising, a coil, connected to a distal end of a support and being wrapped around the endotracheal tube, wherein moving the coil up the tube prevents kinking.

9. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the means for securing the endotracheal tube to a channel comprises two straps having complementary microhook and microloop fastener means provided thereon.

10. The stabilizer of claim 9 wherein the channel is provided with at least one barb in a deepest part of the channel wherein the barb prevents incidental sliding of the tube.

11. The stabilizer of claim 10 wherein the channel is C shaped.

12. The stabilizer of claim 1 wherein the means for securing the endotracheal tube to the support comprises latch means, wherein the latch means has a substantially cylindrically shaped channel for receiving the endotracheal tube at an end portion thereof and grip means movable in a radially inward direction for gripping the endotracheal tube.

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